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CRCG Events Calendar

October 11 – Leader Training and Bridge Call, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT

November 8 – Leader Training and Bridge Call, 10-11:30 a.m. CST

State CRCG Office Updates

Nominations Open for the 2023 CRCG Recognition Awards

The State CRCG Office is excited to announce the 2023 CRCG Recognition Awards! We are currently seeking nominations to acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of local CRCGs, their leaders, and members across Texas.

There are two nomination categories this year:

- CRCG Shining Star Award
- Outstanding CRCG Award

We encourage CRCG Shining Star Award nominations for CRCG leaders and members who exemplify knowledge, service, and dedication to their CRCG and make a positive difference in their community. The Outstanding CRCG Award is for CRCGs who exemplify service, dedication and make a positive impact on their community. Nominations are open to anyone who has been impacted by or knows of the great work CRCGs do. CRCG leaders can self-nominate or nominate another CRCG.

The deadline to submit nomination forms is **November 12, 2023**. To complete a nomination form, please visit the [Outstanding CRCG Award](#)

[Nomination Form](#) and [Shining Star Award Nomination Form](#) webpages.

2023 Texas System of Care and CRCG Conference



The 2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference was held on July 25-27, 2023 in Austin, Texas and was a huge success! The event was attended by 297 participants who joined in person and virtually from across the state. Participants included CRCG leaders and members, state leaders, community leaders, child-serving providers, youth, and family members.

Sessions focused on building authentic connections, spotlighting voices with lived experience, and collaborating to improve mental health outcomes.

CRCG leaders and members presented at the conference to share valuable information about their experience being a part of a CRCG and system of care (SOC) as well as other relevant topics.

Sonia Hartman, Chair of the Travis County CRCG – Community Partners for Children, presented on the topic “CRCG: What’s this Meeting All About – Nuts and Bolts of It All.” Sonia also led a wonderful panel presentation titled “Family Voice in Action: How We Connect, Support, and Advocate for Nothing about Them without Them.” The panel consisted of Parent Liaisons and Certified Family Partners from the Travis County Health and Human Services who shared their lived experience and discussed the importance of family voice and choice.

Judy Schoenfelder, member of the Travis County CRCG – Community Partners for Children, led a presentation titled “Overview of Managed Care and Texas Health Steps.”

Alice Alvarez, supporter of the Bexar County CRCG and SOC, facilitated a session titled “Growing from a CRCG to a SOC.”

Janie Stubblefield, Chair of the Dallas County CRCG, led two powerful presentations titled “Physician Heal Thyself: Creative Counselor Self-Care” and “Mental Health is a Team Effort: Empower Yourself, Empower Others.”

To find the recordings and presentation slides from the conference, visit the [2023 TxSOC & CRCG Conference webpage](#).

Additionally, the conference provided the opportunity for CRCG leaders and the State CRCG Team to come together for a networking lunch. It was great

to meet many of the CRCG leaders in person, learn more about their work in their local communities, and share information about their CRCGs.



Image 1: Setting the stage for the 2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference.



Image 2: Regine Mojica, State CRCG Office, and Kendall Jones, TxSOC, welcome attendees at the conference registration table.



Image 3: Sonia Hartman, CRCG leader, provides valuable information about the Travis County Health and Human Services, The Children's Partnership, and the Travis County CRCG - Community Partners for Children.



Image 4: Barbara Granger shares information about the Texas Family Voice Network with Janette Maldonado-Johnson, CRCG leader.



Image 5: Janie Stubblefield, CRCG leader, leads a presentation titled "Mental Health is a Team Effort: Empower Yourself, Empower Others."



Image 6: Monica Reyes, Ola Collins Jobe, Bertha Rodriguez, and Sonia Hartman provide a joint presentation titled "Family Voice in Action: How We Connect, Support, and Advocate for Nothing about Them without Them."



Image 7: Nidia Heston, TxSOC, and son, Adrian Heston, share their powerful story and lived experience through a presentation titled "Crossed Roads: A Family's Journey with Autism and Mental Health Diagnosis."



Image 8: Alice Alvarez, CRCG leader, provides an engaging presentation titled "Growing from a CRCG to a SOC."



Image 9: TxSOC team members pose in front of the conference photo booth.



Image 10: Winning entries from the 2023 Texas Mental Health Creative Arts Contest were showcased at the conference.



Image 11: Conference attendees have fun bowling together at the Punch Bowl Social networking event.

Thank you to the CRCG leaders and members who attended, presented, helped plan the conference, and volunteered to take on roles during the conference. We could not have implemented such a successful event without your support and participation!

Legislative Updates

During the 2023 TxSOC and CRCG Conference, Shannon Hoffman, MPAff, MSW, LCDC, and Policy Program Officer at the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, provided an overview of the 88th Texas Legislative Session. The presentation covered basic information about the Texas legislature including when it convenes for session and how it works. The presentation provided information on budget outcomes impacting youth and family mental health, mental health legislation impacting schools, mental health legislation impacting system-involved youth, and other legislation impacting youth and families' mental health.

To learn more, view the 88th Texas Legislative Overview [Recording](#) and [Presentation Slides](#) webpages.

CRCG Site Visits

Hill County CRCG

In July, the State CRCG Office met with Tina Bow who works for Homestead Hillsboro, serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and recently took on the chair role for the Hill County CRCG. At the meeting, the State CRCG Office reviewed CRCG resources, training opportunities, and support that is offered by the office. We also had an opportunity to go over the CRCG data collection system and discuss best practices on efficient data entry and submission. We are excited to have Tina on board as a new CRCG leader.

Jack and Wise Counties CRCG

The new leaders of the Jack and Wise counties CRCG met with the State CRCG Office in August to discuss key roles and how to organize an effective CRCG. Community members Marlo Karg and Elizabeth Randle volunteered to take on the role of co-chairs. Both leaders bring enthusiasm and passion to their new roles. The State CRCG Office also attended the Jack and Wise counties CRCG meeting in September. This provided an opportunity to meet the group's members, provide general information about the CRCG program, and discuss how the State CRCG Office supports CRCGs locally.

State CRCG Office Available for Virtual Technical Assistance

The State CRCG Office is available for virtual training and technical assistance, including helping to navigate virtual platforms and attending

Resources

CRCG Website

The [CRCG website](#) has great resources for leaders and members, including guidebooks covering all things CRCGs, and resources for families and community members. Popular links include:

[CRCG Training Toolkit](#)

[Texas Legislative, Government Code, and MOU Requirements for CRCGs](#)

Webinar Recordings

The State CRCG Office webinars bring valuable resources and information to CRCG partners and members.

[Restorative Practices for CRCGs Webinar Series](#)

[2023 TxSOC and CRCG Recordings and Presentation Slides](#)

Visit the [CRCG Training and Technical Assistance webpage](#) to view other past webinar recordings.

Sharing Is Caring

Please share our newsletter with your colleagues or anyone who may benefit from this information!

Contact Us

We would love to hear from you! If you have thoughts, concerns, comments, ideas, or anything else that you would like to share, please contact the State CRCG Office.

CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us

(512) 206-5255

practice meetings. Please email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us or call 512-206-5255 for assistance.

Spotlight on CRCGs

Welcome New CRCG Leaders

A special welcome to the new CRCG leaders who volunteered to take on key roles in Spring 2023:

- Amber Corder, Chair, and Dawn Capra, Co-Chair, Blanco County CRCG
- Jackie Perez, Chair, Gray, Hemphill, Roberts, and Wheeler Counties CRCG
- Jessica Schwen, Co-Chair, Gregg County CRCG
- Tina Bow, Chair, Hill County CRCG
- Michaela Rothe, Chair, Palo Pinto County CRCG
- Helen Ramsbottom, Co-Chair, Tarrant County CRCG
- Marlo Karg and Elizabeth Randle, Co-Chairs, Jack and Wise Counties CRCG
- Candi Gadison, Chair, Williamson County CRCG

We appreciate the time and commitment these leaders devote to supporting their local CRCGs and communities.

To share success stories for upcoming newsletters, email the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hpsc.state.tx.us.

Upcoming CRCG Events

Monthly Leader Training and Bridge Call

The monthly leader training and bridge call, hosted by the State CRCG Office, offers time to provide training and technical assistance to CRCG

leaders and answer questions, as well as an opportunity for leaders to share ideas, discuss challenges, and network. A portion of these sessions is dedicated to regional cohort breakout rooms to allow leaders to connect and build partnerships with other CRCGs in their region.

All CRCG leaders are welcome and encouraged to join each month. The training occurs every second Wednesday of the month from 10–11:30 a.m.. A calendar invite is sent to all CRCG leaders with the meeting information. Upcoming dates and times include:

- October 11, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. CDT / 9-10:30 a.m. MDT
- November 8, 2023, 10-11:30 a.m. CST / 9-10:30 a.m. MST

For questions or additional information, please contact the State CRCG Office at CRCG@hhsc.state.tx.us.

CRCG Partner Agency Updates

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Office of Mental Health Coordination

Veterans Mental Health Services

Texas Veterans + Family Alliance Grant Program

The Texas Veterans + Family Alliance (TV+FA) Grant Program was created to improve the quality of life for Texas veterans and their families. The program aims to expand the availability of, increase access to, and enhance delivery of mental health services and treatments.

TV+FA grants support a variety of clinical mental health and non-clinical essential support services for veterans and family members, including but not limited to:

- Evidence-based therapies and treatment
- Individual, group, family, and couples peer support services
- Individual and family counseling
- Suicide prevention initiatives to help community members, veterans and their family members develop awareness and skills in recognizing, assisting, and referring to mental health services
- Support services essential to mental health services such as childcare, emergency financial support, transportation, and housing assistance
- Navigation services such as case management and referral services

Available Services

Veterans and family members seeking assistance and services should contact service providers directly. Click on the name of the grantee below to access website information.

- [American GI Forum](#)
- [Dallas Metrocare Services](#)
- [Easter Seals Greater Houston](#)
- [Ecumenical Center](#)
- [Emergence Health Network](#)
- [Endeavors – Alamo](#)
- [Endeavors – El Paso](#)
- [Endeavors – Killeen](#)
- [Family Support Services of Amarillo](#)
- [Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network](#)
- [LULAC Project Amistad](#)
- [Recovery Resource Council](#)
- [Samaritan Center for Counseling & Pastoral Care](#)
- [Tropical Texas Behavioral Health](#)
- [University of Texas at Austin](#)
- [University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio](#)
- [Warrior’s Refuge, a project of Castle Cares Community Ministries](#)
- [West Texas Counseling & Guidance](#)

Resources

For more information on accessing behavioral health services in Texas, please visit <https://MentalHealthTX.org>.

To learn more about resources for veterans, visit the [Texas Veterans Portal](#). For immediate assistance, please call 9-8-8, and dial 1.

Veterans and family members can also access services on their smartphones through the Texas Veterans App. The app can be downloaded by using the search feature in Google Play, the App Store, or by visiting these links:

- [Texas Veterans App for iPhone](#)
- [Texas Veterans App for Android](#)

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training introduces participants to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use concerns, builds understanding of their impact, and gives an overview of common treatments and resources.

Adult, youth, and teen MHFA trainings are available to community members across the state through the local mental health and behavioral health authorities. More information on how to enroll in a course can be found at [Mental Health First Aid | Texas Health and Human Services](#).

Rural Mental Health

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Rural Mental Health works to ensure that all Texans have access to the right care at the right time and place.

Rural Mental Health reviewed five years of crisis data and found that there are regions in Texas with higher than average mental health crisis incidents. These areas are in parts of South Texas, Central Texas, and East Texas. In fiscal year 2023, Rural Mental Health implemented a community engagement pilot to help provide context to those crisis incidents. The 2023 community engagement pilot included a survey of local residents, which indicated that community members rank finances as a top stressor and besides their family, their faith community is a main source of social support.

Rural Mental Health continues to explore opportunities that support rural Texans in addressing their community's stressors. In fiscal year 2024, community engagement will continue to seek unique ways to increase access and decrease barriers to mental health and wellness services in the following counties: Anderson, Blanco, Burnet, Cherokee, Chambers, Fayette, Gonzales, Hardin, Jefferson, Lee, Llano, and Orange. In addition, Rural Mental Health will continue to work with rural serving mental health authorities in the state to expand their strategic partnerships and collaborations.

The All Texas Access 2023 report will be posted on our website by December 1, 2023.

To contact HHSC's Rural Mental Health unit, email RuralMentalHealth@hhs.texas.gov.

Community Services

Health and Independence

The Health and Independence section works with community-based organizations to help individuals make informed decisions, connect families with needed services, and help people live independently in their community by providing access to rehabilitative services, therapies and supports. Please visit the links below to learn more about the Health and Independence programs:

- [Blind Children’s Program](#)
- Brain Injury Programs ([Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services](#) and [Office of Acquired Brain Injury](#))
- [Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)
- Specialty Health ([Children with Special Health Care Needs](#), [Children’s Autism Program](#), [Hemophilia Program](#), [Blindness Education, Screening and Treatment](#), [Epilepsy Program](#), [Navigate Life Texas](#), and [Kidney Health Care](#))

Texas Department of State Health Services

Children with Special Health Care Needs Systems Development Group

The [Children with Special Health Care Needs \(CSHCN\) Systems Development Group](#) supports population-based services for children with special health care needs relating to the Title V Block Grant and is part of the Maternal and Child Health Section at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

The program partners with community-based contractors around Texas to provide support for families with children and youth with special health care needs and disabilities. Services may include in-home or center-based respite, parent-to-parent connections, educational trainings and workshops, support groups, community recreational activities, and more. Not all services are available in all parts of the state. Case management for families is also available through DSHS regional offices.

Program resources on transitioning to adult health care, community inclusion, medical home, and more are free and can be ordered on the [DSHS Resource Order Form](#) webpage.

Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative

The CSHCN Systems Development Group leads the statewide [Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative](#) quarterly webinars to share knowledge, implementation strategies, new resources, and best or promising practices. The meetings are open to everyone interested, including youth and young adults, parents, providers, community organizations, hospital and university systems, educators, and health plans.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023, noon–1:30 p.m. CST. Glenn Heath, Project Manager for HHSC's Vocational Apprenticeship Program, will share how this innovative program has grown from a few pilot sites to many locations in the state and how it's helping

adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities prepare for and gain employment. Please bring your questions and share this information with others who may be interested. To receive the link to register, please email ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

For more information about the Transition to Adulthood Learning Collaborative and CSHCN Systems Development Group initiatives, please email Ivy Goldstein, State CSHCN Health Coordinator at ivy.goldstein@dshs.texas.gov.

Other News and Events

40th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference

The 40th Annual Adult Protective Services (APS) Conference hosted by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), will be held October 10-13, 2023, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas.

At APS, the mantra is "Protecting the Unprotected." This is what APS does. Their mission is to protect older adults and persons with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. But they don't do this work alone! APS counts on the efforts of a wide variety of partners. And the 40th Annual Conference will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of these unsung heroes who help serve vulnerable clients.

To learn more, visit the [40th Annual APS Conference](#) webpage.

2023 White Cane Day Celebration

The 2023 White Cane Day Celebration hosted by Texas HHSC, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (TSBVI), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will be held October 18, 2023, in Austin, Texas.

The mission of White Cane Day is to educate the world about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities, to celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and to honor the many contributions being made by the blind and visually impaired.

Activities include a fun run/walk that begins at Republic Square Park, located at 422 Guadalupe Street, meet at 7 a.m. behind the southbound bus stop. The Travis Association for the Blind march begins at 8 a.m. at City Hall, and participants will march to the Texas Capital. Participants of the TWC and TSBVI march will meet at 8:45 a.m. at any of these locations:

- Walgreens, 4501 Guadalupe St.

- Central Market, 4001 N. Lamar Blvd.
- The Pit Barbecue, 4707 Burnet Road
- Triangle Station, 47th Street at Guadalupe Street

The march to TSBVI begins at 9 a.m., followed by a ceremony and various activities at the school until 2 p.m.

To learn more about this event and other White Cane Day events across Texas, visit [WhiteCaneDay.org](https://www.whitecane.org).

6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health

The 6th Annual Judicial Summit on Mental Health, hosted by the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, will be held October 18-20, 2023 at the Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas and virtually. The Summit will include opportunities to connect with colleagues, establish new relationships, and engage in learning sessions designed to be inspiring yet practical. Participants will receive tools to help navigate the complex mental health laws. Registration is free but capacity is limited.

To learn more, visit the [Judicial Summit on Mental Health](https://www.tjcmh.org) website.

2023 Partners in Prevention Conference

The 2023 Partners in Prevention (PIP) Conference hosted by the Texas DFPS, will be held November 14-16, 2023, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas. The PIP Conference is the largest annual gathering of prevention and early intervention professionals in Texas. The conference attracts parent educators, youth service providers, civic leaders, policy advocates, researchers, DFPS staff, Prevention and Early Intervention grantees, and others with a professional interest in child and family well-being, youth development, and juvenile justice. Attendees benefit from a wide variety of presentations, including lived experience from parents and youth, fatherhood engagement, ethics, diversity, equity and inclusion, program evaluation, home visiting, and positive youth development.

To learn more, visit the [PIP Conference](https://www.dfps.gov) webpage.

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Texas Chapter 47th Annual Convention

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Texas Chapter 47th Annual Convention hosted by AAIDD Texas Chapter, is scheduled for November 14-17, 2023, at the Grand Galvez in Galveston, Texas. The convention seeks to draw professionals, direct support

staff, self-advocates, and family members with an interest in all the issues facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To learn more, visit the [AAIDD Texas Chapter 47th Annual Convention](#) webpage.